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# Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO PROTECT  
CHILDREN FROM LEAD PAINT POISONING**

Charleston – Attorneys general from 48 states and jurisdictions have finalized an agreement aimed at educating and warning consumers and contractors about the risk of lead paint exposure during repainting and other home renovation work, Attorney General McGraw announced today. While lead has not been manufactured or sold since 1978, it still presents a serious health risk to adults and, especially, young children who are exposed to dust or occupy homes during renovations.

Lead poisoning stemming from inadequate surface preparation prior to repainting affects children from all social and economic backgrounds. Whether repainting a rented apartment or installing a brand new kitchen, it is imperative that families take the proper precautions.

The agreement, reached between the state attorneys general and the National Paint and Coating Association (NPCA), requires paint manufacturers to affix warning labels on paint cans and provide consumer education and training, alerting consumers to the hazards of lead paint exposure and how to avoid it.

Specifically, the manufacturer is required to place a lead exposure warning on the side of the paint can and an abbreviated warning either on the top of the can or on a separate "sticker" where the warning is less likely to be obscured after the paint is used. The National Paint and Coatings Association has also agreed to fund and provide consumer education and training courses on lead-safe renovation and repainting to homeowners, contractors, landlords and housing workers. Finally, under the terms of the agreement, NPCA will develop discount programs for safety equipment.

"We believe that meaningful warning labels will substantially reduce the number of lead poisoning cases, especially relating to children," Attorney General McGraw said. "This agreement will help educate families and consumers about the potential dangers associated with a home improvement project."

To learn more about working safely with lead paint, consumers should call the Environmental Protection Authority's Lead Information Hotline at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) or log on to [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

In addition to West Virginia, attorneys general from 47 states and jurisdictions signed on to the agreement, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands,

Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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